

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**683-4333**

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes**  
**November 17, 2015**

**Called to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by co-chair Frank Watt. Those present from the Commission were:

Brad Taylor	Frank Watt	Karen Jefferson
Stacy Beaugh	Gale Foster	Claudette Konola
Dr. Larry Copeland	Bob Fuller	Dr. Bill Findlay

Also present Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), Kurt Mill, Riverfront Foundation (RFF), Katie Steele (RFF), Georgann Jouflas and Nathan Perry with Colorado Mesa University (CMU), Bennett Price with the Town of Palisade board member and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent: Cliff Sprinkle, Eric James

**Approval of Minutes** – Corrections to the October minutes. Collin is also with CBI. Nathan ? should be Nathan Perry. Claudette/Gale. Motion passed.

**An announcement** – RFC office closed November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>  
Intergovernmental Agency (IGA) meeting on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at BLM at 7:00am  
CO Gives Day Firkin – December 7<sup>th</sup> at Kannah Creek Brewery – 5:30pm to 7:00pm  
Colorado Gives Day – Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
RFC December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting canceled  
Riverfront Foundation (RFF) received \$2,500 grant from Junior Service League for riparian restoration  
2016 Tour of the Moon – October 1st

**Updates –**

Mesa County – Greg unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Bob said City will be clearing and surveying for the proposed Kokopelli Trail. Good news, will be reapplying for Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant in 2016. Bad news, Little Salt Wash trail choice of low bidder did not meet the 12% requirement of disadvantage business subcontractors per CDOT. The low bidder came in at 1% and was rejected by CDOT. Fruita will be putting out to bid again this week. Higher bidders did come closer to the % but the construction cost was higher than projected. Additional cost will hurt because funds will come from the General Account and City will need to cover the cost difference. City doesn't want to have to turn back the \$800,000 in grant fund. Kurt gave some suggestions to try and work around.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett B. unable to attend by informed Michele that the City was named a Tier 2 community and will receive up to \$75,000 in planning grant funds from their Inspire Grant application.

Town of Palisade – Frank stated that the County Commissioners presented the County’s budget to the Town of Palisade. At the meeting Bennett P. asked if the County was providing financial support to the RFC and Commissioner Pugliese stated that the RFC didn’t submit a financial request. RFC board will plan on submitting a request next year.

2016 Bluegrass tickets went on sale yesterday. Palisade Chamber sent a plug for a Buy a Brick Campaign for the Fruit & Wine Byway. Cost of a brick is \$250. Frank said the bricks will be placed at two kiosks, one off Exit 42 at St. Kathryn’s Cellars and the second off I-70 Exit 44.

Bennett P. talked about the proposed campground at Riverbend Park, not being well received. Burnhart property has sold and the new owners want to put in a “Glamping” ground. Couple is also working with Rondo to provide bikes, canoes, etc. They are amenable to a riverfront trail just not through their property. Discussed other properties near there were owner was interested in working with State Park back with Kurt was with CPW.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Work will start at the end of November at 29 Road. Survey for the Nature Conservancy/Clifton Water has been completed and will need to have further meetings with one owner. Yellow Billed Cuckoo – working on activities that would be allowed to happen within the habitat. Fruita Park is outside the area so concert series will be allowed to continue at park.

Pete said he’s spoken with the CPW higher office and he and the Concert Series (CRCS) can proceed with redesigning and construction for replacing the deteriorating fence.

He said in discussion to acquiring the parcel adjacent to the LaQuinta. Repair around the dike has been awarded to Mountain Valley Contract with construction projected to start in December.

#### **New Business –**

Participating in 2016 Outdoor Heritage Days and volunteering for other events. Frank spoke about RFC members volunteering during the past year, one RFC member hasn’t volunteered for any events and some members volunteer for almost all and most. Will bring back to the January meeting.

Stacy asked if have the attendance number at Earth Days. Michele will email Carolee with Alpine Bank again for info. Michele added Alpine Bank sponsors the CRCS. Brad would like to do Earth Day for opportunity of seeing different faces. Stacy suggested maybe alternating each year.

Pomona Elementary School Presentation – May, 2016 – Larry volunteered.

RFF Update – Michele stated Las Colonias was discussed along with concerns and shortfall of funds without the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) support. Michele was asked to schedule a meeting with Traci Wieland with the City and their consultants. In the meantime, John Gormley reached at to three DDA board members to discuss the importance of the DDA supports. DDA voted to support the project with a \$500,000 multi-year grand. The CRCS financial info was reviewed and noted still need to bring on more sponsors. Reviewed Many Rivers Brewery proposal. Concerns raised about hurting local partnership support if go with exclusivity micro brew vendor. Concert committee met on November 11<sup>th</sup> with Tim Carlson

with Many Rivers Brewery to discuss concerns. Tim is revising proposal and will get it to Michele with concerns addressed.

Stacy announced she's pregnant; baby Beaugh is due in early June.

RFC retreat – Brad stated one year retreat is seat down in room and get to business. 2016 is the year he'd like to get out and do tour. Would like to start at Riverbend Park and work towards the Clifton Nature Park, 29 Road to 27 ½ Road – would like park at Gale's driveway. Need to work on safety at 29 Road. If time allows will go out to see work Fruita and Pete are working on. May 7<sup>th</sup> suggested as retreat date. Michele will contact GVT for bus. Social same day. Brad suggested not participating in OHD or Earth and having retreat on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Group agreed.

### **Old Business:**

Voluntary Surcharge – Georgann Jouflas and Nathan Perry discussed the value of their proposal and answered questions RFC and RFF members had to help determine if the RFC should move forward with recommending moving forward to the RFF for the funding. Georgann spoke about the survey and the info the group wants to gathered to be useful if move forward or not for other RFC projects. Stacy reminded that the group that RFC and RFF members will also be involved in going out surveying to help lay the groundwork if move forward since RFC will be working with the businesses.

Michele stated that several RFF members wanted to make sure that out of the 40 businesses surveyed, Fruita and the Town of Palisade businesses are included as part of the 40.

Nathan stated he'd like to survey more than 100 and would like to aim for 200 and hope for 100 to 150 depending on successful survey types whether online, Facebook survey or face to face interviews. He will make sure that the results are statistically gathered. He will look at previous work and other studies to see what has been done.

Kurt asked if this will be confused with the new outdoor recreation group.

Stacy said that RFC needs to get out in front of what all the other groups are doing. She has been in contact with COPMOBA and they believe our program and theirs will work together since they are regional while we would be local.

Katie is asking for info if community wants the program but RFC doesn't move forward with implementation.

Brad motioned to proceed to move forward with modified proposal to the RFF so RFF can vote by Thanksgiving. Bob second. Motion passed.

Riverfront Facebook page video – Karen explained video created for the CO Gives Day Collaboration website. Looking for other videos for our Facebook page.

Karen mentioned that the Tamarisk Coalition did a great job last year and reached out to all their donors to reminding folks to donate on COGD with phone calls.

Brad said that the failing asphalt on the South Rim trail has been replaced with concrete. Believe it was redone by the County.

**Public Comment** – No public comment.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.